

US 276 in Pisgah Forest

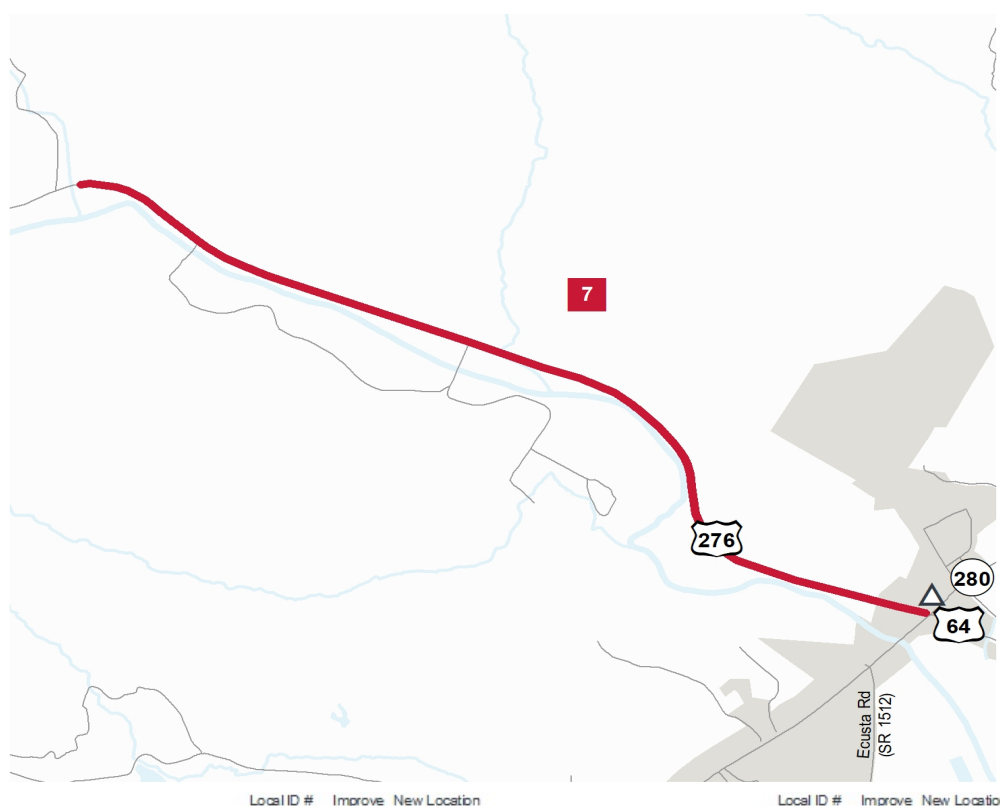
from US 64 to Avery Creek Trail Head

Local ID: **TRAN0007-H**Purpose: **Mobility**Improvement: **Improve Existing****Identified Need**

US 276 in the Pisgah Forest is a point of major tourist activity. The Traffic Forecast for STIP Project R-5799 shows this facility experiences traffic higher than the historical data. In addition, the high seasonal variability and truck traffic leads to congestion in excess of average annual data.

Recommendation

The CTP proposes a long term vision of a three lane cross section including multimodal elements. Individual projects, like R-5865 which is underway, must fit within the constraints of the given section and will incrementally address the needs.

**Proposal At A Glance**

Highway Class	Congestion & Mobility
Facility Type	Major Thoroughfare 2-lane
Typical Section	03 D
Section Options	-
Estimated Cost	-
Length (miles)	2.15
Existing ROW (feet)	60
Safety Risk Score	-

Proposal Data: 2017 Base Year 2045 Future Year

Improved Route	Existing	Without Proposal	With Proposal
<i>Facility Type</i>	Major Thoroughfare 2-lane	Major Thoroughfare 2-lane	Major Thoroughfare 2-lane
<i>Travel Lanes</i>	2	2	2
<i>Volume (vpd)</i>	7000	8800	-
<i>Capacity (vpd)</i>	15100	15100	15100

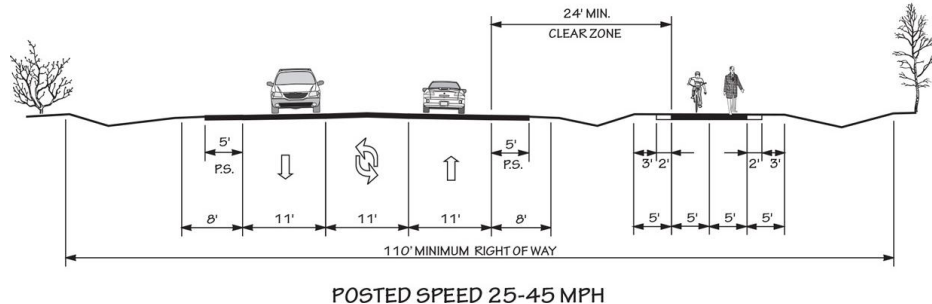
Capacity Data: Year

Facility will be Approaching Capacity (>80%)	-
Facility will be Over Capacity (>=100%)	-



Typical Section Options:

None

TYPICAL SECTION No. 3D2 LANE WITH TWO WAY LEFT TURN LANE,
PAVED SHOULDERS AND SIDEPATH**Seasonal and Terrain Considerations**

Current signage warns truckers that US 276 includes steep grades of 9 percent and tight curves posted for 15 MPH. This reduces the capacity normally expected with a facility of two lane cross section and 55 MPH speed limit. US 276 also provides access to one of the major tourist destinations in the area, including the Davidson River Campground, Avery Creek Trailhead, Twin Falls Trailhead, White Pine Campground, Pisgah Forest Riding Stables, Moore Cove Falls Trail, Looking Glass Rock Trailhead, and the Pisgah National Forest Ranger Station and Visitor Center. These contribute to a high degree of day trip, hiking, biking, and other seasonal activities.

Linkage to Other Plans

According to the 2013 Blue Ridge Bike Plan, this facility is part of the "Priority County Corridor" from Brevard to the Blue Ridge Parkway. According to the 2025 Transylvania County Comprehensive Plan, this facility is part of the "Regional On-Road Bicycle Routes" identified in that plan. It is classified as a major collector on the Federal Functional Classification System.

Multi-Modal Considerations

Transylvania County Transit, under the name "Transylvania in Motion" operates a fixed route as well as demand response system within the county. The deviated-fixed route does not reach this facility; however, it is within the demand-response area. In order to accommodate bicycles, 5-foot paved shoulders are recommended on this facility.

Goals & Objectives Survey

The citizens of Transylvania County responded to a public survey in early 2019 with a great deal of support for new greenways, sidewalks, and multi-use paths. When asked for their top three most important project types, these categories ranked first, third and fifth, out of a dozen choices. Rounding out the top five were maintenance and safety projects at second and fourth respectfully.

When asked to rank transportation goals, the respondents gave two, preservation of the natural beauty and community character and increasing the number transportation mode choices, substantial net positive scores; improved connectivity, and economic development about neutral; and improved travel time was poorly scored, receiving over 50% of the lowest rank.

Natural & Human Environmental Context

Based on planning level environmental assessment using available GIS data, the proposed project intersects the Pisgah National Forest. According to LHI Guild Analysis, this project intersects multiple guilds of the Mesic Hardwood, Mixed Forest, Sparsely Settled Mixed Habitats, Woodland, and Barrens variety. These are predominantly A-ranked resources with the balance being B-ranked. It is also within the vicinity of the English Chapel Wetland